United Nations

A/60/688

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2006

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Agenda items 82 and 117

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Letter dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as the Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2006, I have the honour to inform that the African Group has noted, with concern, the decision of the Security Council to hold separate open debates on the themes, "Peacekeeping operation management (procurement)" and "Sexual exploitation in United Nations peacekeeping missions", scheduled for Wednesday, 22 February and Thursday, 23 February 2006, respectively.

The African Group's concern is based on its longstanding and well-known position of safeguarding the authority of the General Assembly as the primary deliberative and policy-making organ of the United Nations. It is therefore in that context that the Group views the decision of the Security Council as not only an encroachment on the responsibilities and functions of the General Assembly, but also incompatible with the current spirit of the ongoing discussions aimed at revitalizing the General Assembly.

The Group therefore wishes to rely on your able leadership to institute necessary measures aimed at safeguarding the primacy and authority of the General Assembly as the deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations. The execution of its mandate effectively and without hindrances from other organs such as the Security Council is indispensable to its revitalization.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 82 and 117.

(*Signed*) Joe Robert **Pemagbi**
Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
Chairman of the African Group for the month of February 2006

06-25115 (E) 230206